

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated October 18, 2004, claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, and 14 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 3 and 10 have been cancelled. Reexamination and reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 1 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 6 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, but has amended the application to overcome the objections. Claims 1, 6 and 13 have been amended. It is believed that all claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

In paragraph 2 on page 4 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 11, 13, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e) as being anticipated by Pelc, et al. (U.S. 6,203,759). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, but has amended the application to overcome the objections. In particular, independent claims 1 and 6 now contain the limitations from original claims 3 and 10. Applicant notes that the Examiner has indicated that claims 3 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 11, 13, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e) as being anticipated by Pelc.

In paragraph 4 on page 6 of the Office Action, claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pelc, et al, as applied to claims 1, 2, 4,

6, 11, 13, and 14, and further in view of Tajima (U.S. 5,895,631). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, but has amended the application to overcome the objections. Specifically, independent claim 6 now contains the limitations of original claim 10. Claims 7 and 8 are dependent upon claim 6. Applicant notes that the Examiner has indicated that claims 3 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pelc and further in view of Tajima.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and reasons provided above, it is believed that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. The amendments clarify the patentable invention without adding new subject matter. Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early allowance of all pending claims.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicant's attorney of record, Jeffrey R. Stone at 952 253-4130.

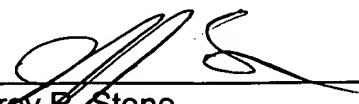
Respectfully submitted,

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Date:

3/15/05

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